



THE 2014 STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT LEADERS ON **SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

a. What degree of English proficiency should a nominee have?

All participants must be fully proficient in English; throughout the Institute they will need to fully understand lectures, actively participate in discussions, and read and write assignments in English.

b. Can a nominee who is a dual citizen (U.S. and country of origin) participate in Study of the U.S. Institutes?

No. U.S. citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) are **NOT** eligible to participate in this program.

c. Can we nominate an individual who is not a citizen of the nominating post country?

Yes. However, Study of the U.S. Institutes are programs designed to further mutual understanding between U.S. citizens and citizens of other countries. If you wish to nominate someone who is not a citizen of the nominating country, please explain clearly on the application the reasons for the nomination.

d. My nominee has been to the U.S. before; would he/she be disqualified?

No. Nominees with very minimal experience in the United States may be considered for the program. However, priority will be given to nominees with no previous experience in the United States. If you find it necessary to nominate a candidate with previous U.S. experience, please be sure to clearly indicate the purpose of the nominee's visit to the U.S., the year, and the

length of his/her stay as requested on the nomination form.

- e. My nominee will be fasting during Ramadan. How will this impact his/her participation in the program?** Participants who will be fasting during Ramadan are still expected to **fully participate** in the program. Participants must be aware of the rigorous nature of the program and the expectation of full participation in planned activities. Some activities such as community service and site visits may take place outdoors in high temperatures and humidity. Participants should be aware of the challenging nature of the program, especially on long travel days during the educational study tour and in locations that experience long hours of sunlight. For example, in the northern United States, the sun rises around 5:30 am and sets around 9:30 pm.
- f. What accommodations will host institutions make for participants who are observing Ramadan?** Host institutions will make every effort to accommodate fasting participants. For example, host institutions should provide access to kitchens and refrigerators so participants can prepare and store food. Participants should be aware that Halal food may not be readily available in some parts of the United States. Host institutions will also accommodate participants who may wish to attend Friday prayers at the local mosque.
- g. How much free time will a participant have during the program?** There will be some free time during the program. However, nominees **MUST** understand that this is an intensive academic program and they are expected to fully participate in all lectures, activities, site visits, and scheduled events.
- h. If a nominee has relatives in the U.S., would he/she have time to see them?** Participants will **NOT** be allowed to leave the Institute to visit relatives or friends. Occasionally it is possible for a relative or friend to visit the participant on a specific day designated by the host institution if the schedule permits. These situations will be addressed on a case by case basis in consultation with the ECA program officer and the host institution.

- i. How important it is to nominate a gender balanced group?** Very important! We strive to have the best possible diversity and gender balance in the Institutes (except for Women's Leadership institutes).
- j. Can a participant arrive early/late or stay after the Institute?** No. Participants who choose to travel to the United States on a Study of the U.S. Institute are required to abide by the terms and conditions of the program. These terms state clearly that student leaders may **NOT** arrive in the United States before the program start date or remain in the country after the close of the institute.
- k. Can a graduate student participate in this Institute?** No. Study of the U.S. Institutes are designed exclusively for undergraduate students with at least one remaining semester of study.
- l. Can a participant miss one part or component of the Institute?** No. All participants are expected to participate in all scheduled lectures, events, site visits, trips, and activities.
- m. How much money will participants need to bring for the program?** The Study of the U.S. Institutes cover all basic costs of an individual's participation including transportation, lodging, and meals. Generally, host institutions provide for meals through a combination of a cafeteria meal plan, a pre-loaded debit card for use at local restaurants, and/or a cash allowance to permit participants to purchase food for cooking. Information on housing and meal arrangements will be provided by the host institution six weeks prior to the start of the Institute. Other than the meal stipend mentioned above, participants should not expect to receive any spending money from the Institute. Participants should bring their own spending money if they wish to purchase souvenirs or other items during their time in the United States.
- n. My nominee participated in the English Access Microscholarship Program; can he/she participate in this Institute?** Yes.
- o. One of our SUSI alumni has a sibling who would like to apply for the SUSI program. Can (S)he apply?** Priority will be given to nominees who are unrelated to past SUSI participants. Posts should make every effort to recruit

and nominate candidates from diverse backgrounds, areas, and universities.

p. Are participants permitted to smoke during the

Institute? Yes. However, participants should be aware that many places in the United States now prohibit smoking. Smoking in such places could be considered a violation of the law. Some places that may prohibit smoking are university housing, classrooms, office buildings, restaurants, public parks, and other locations. Smoking laws will vary from location to location so participants who smoke should look for designated smoking areas.